

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07509 271557Z
ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7509

DEPT PASS COMMERCE AND TREASURY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEWT, UR, US
SUBJ: SOVIET MOOD MUSIC ON THE EVE OF THE COMMISSION

REF: (A) MOSCOW 7188, (B) MOSCOW 7126, (C) MOSCOW 7198

1. WE ARE GETTING REPEATED EXPOSURE TO SOVIET DISPLEASURE ABOUT REQUIREMENT THAT DEPARTMENT APPROVE OPENING OF NEW SOVIET OFFICES IN US. LATEST INDICATION CAME AT HONEYWELL CORPORATION RECEPTION MAY 26 TO FETE OPENING OF NEW OFFICE HERE. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (MFT) DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AMERICAN COUNTRIES MEL'NIKOV WADED INTO E/C COUNSELOR AND COMMERCIAL OFFICER SEPARATELY WITH SAME COMPLAINT: THAT WE ARE "DISCRIMINATING" AGAINST SOVIETS IN US. MEL'NIKOV MADE EXACTLY THE SAME ARGUMENT AS HE DID WITH COUNSELOR IN USCO ON MAY 16 (SEE REF A), DEFINING TRUE RECIPROCITY AS MEANING THAT BOTH US AND USSR SHOULD TREAT BUSINESSMEN OF THE OTHER AS THEY DO THIRD PARTIES. HE ONCE AGAIN CITED BELARUS CASE AS EXAMPLE OF SUCH "DISCRIMINATION" AND ADDED ADDITIONAL TWIST, THAT MFT NOW HAS INDICATIONS NEW US ADMINISTRATION IS INTRODUCING FRESH OBSTACLES TO TRADE. (COUNSELOR TOLD HIM THIS WAS NONSENSE.) WE AGAIN REHEARSED PROPRIETY AND FAIRNESS OF US POLICY AND POINTED OUT THAT BELARUS WAS GETTING BETTER TREATMENT THAN SEEMED TO BE CASE OF US
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FIRMS RECEIVING "TEMPORARY ACCREDITATION." MEL'NIKOV AGAIN DISMISSED ACCREDITATION AS "NO PROBLEM."

2. ALLIS-CHALMERS REP SHILLINGLAW APPROACHED COUNSELOR SEPARATELY ON SAME OCCASION TO INQUIRE WHETHER DEPT HAD APPROVED TRAKTOR EXPORT OPERATIONS IN US ON ASSUMPTION THAT A-C, ARMCO AND SPERRY WOULD RECEIVE NORMAL ACCREDITATION

HERE. COUNSELOR SAID THAT WE DO KEY OUR PERMISSION FOR SOVIET BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN US TO THE WAY SOVIETS TREAT US FIRMS HERE. SHILLINGLAW STATED THAT A-C VICE PRESIDENT WASSERMAN WAS FOLLOWING SUBJECT CLOSELY AND SAID THAT HE OR ANOTHER OFFICIAL WOULD BE IN CONTACT DURING FORTHCOMING JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION SESSION (WE GAVE HIM EDGAR, EUR/SOV, AS POINT OF REFERENCE).

3. COMMENT: MEL'NIKOV IS A RATHER UNIMAGINATIVE INDIVIDUAL WHO APPEARS TO RELISH MOST THE ROLE OF CRITIC, BUT HE APPEARED TO BE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE THE ABOVE POINTS. IN OUR RECENT LUNCHEON SESSION WITH MEL'NIKOV'S SUPERIOR, ZINOV'YEV, THE LATTER ALSO COMPLAINED IN Milder TERMS ABOUT THE NECESSITY OF OBTAINING THE DEPT'S APPROVAL TO OPEN OFFICES IN THE US.
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Message Attributes

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